

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /073 W

----- 015732

R 291612Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7159

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, LE

SUBJECT: LANDMARK AAFLI VISIT TO LEBANON

REF: STATE 55835 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: AAFLI OFFICIALS VISITED LEBANON ON MARCH 24-28, RECEIVING WARM WELCOME FROM LEBANESE LABOR LEADERS AND MADE FIRST PRESENTATION OF MEDICINES AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT FROM AFL-CIO TO NORTH LEBANON LABOR FEDERATION. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS FOLLOW-UP AAFLI VISIT WITHIN THREE MONTHS. END SUMMARY.

2. TAKING TIME OUT FROM DOMESTIC PREOCCUPATIONS, LEBANESE LABOR LEADERS ROLLED OUT RED CARPET THIS WEEK FOR VISITING ASIAN-AMERICAN FREE LABOR INSTITUE (AAFLI) OFFICIALS. NEITHER PREPARATIONS FOR IMPENDING GENERAL STRIKE APRIL 2 NOR RENEWED

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PERSONAL RIVALRIES ENGENDERED BY CONFEDERATION ELECTIONS SLATED

APRIL 10 KEPT LEBANESE FROM EXTENDING WARM RECEPTION TO AAFLI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR JACK MUTH, ACCOMPANIED BY MEDICAL
CONSULTANT DR. OSCAR CAMP, DURING THEIR MARCH 24-28 STAY.

3. VISIT BECAME LANDMARK OCCASION WHEN MUTH, ON BEHALF AFL-
CIO, MADE FIRST-EVER AAFLI MATERIAL CONTRIBUTION TO LEBANESE
LABOR, PRESENTING TO NORTH LEBANON LABOR FEDERATION IN TRIPOLI
MEDICINES VALUED AT \$5,000 RETAIL FOR ITS HEALTH CLINIC AND OFFICE
EQUIPMENT (TYPEWRITER AND MIMOGRAPH) TO REPLACE THAT DESTROYED
WHEN COMMUNISTS AND BAATHISTS WRECKED FEDERATION HEADQUARTERS
IN EARLY FEBRUARY (LATTER GIFT THEREBY ENABLES FEDERATION TO
RESUME NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS).

4. IN ADDITION TO BEING ENTERTAINED BY CONFEDERATI ON PRESIDENT
GABRIEL KHOURY, PETROLEUM WORKERS FEDERATION PRESIDENT GEORGE
SACRE, AND TRIPOLI FEDERATION OFFICERS, AAFLI VISITORS HAD
OCCASION TO MEET MAJORITY OF FEDERATION PRESIDENTS AND DISCUSS
WIDE RANGE OF POSSIBLE FUTURE BILATERAL AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES.
BY CHANCE, VISIT COINCIDED WITH MIDWEEK EMBASSY RECEPTION TO
WHICH CONTINGENT OF LOCAL LABOR LEADERS WERE INVITED TO MEET ME.
ALL SHOWED UP IN DISPLAY OF MARKEDLY PRO-AMERICAN SENTIMENT
AND WERE DOUBLY PLEASED TO FIND MUTH/CAMP AMONG GUESTS.

5. COMMENTS: AS RESULT OF THIS RED-LETTER WEEK, LEBANESE
LABOR'S DOOR HAS SWUNG WIDE OPEN TO AAFLI. I HEARTILY RECOMMEND
ANOTHER AAFLI VISIT BE SCHEDULED TO LEBANON WITHIN THE NEXT THREE
MONTHS.

DECON 3/29/75.

GODLEY

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